START-RIGHT ELF BOOK

Seashells for Katie and Andy

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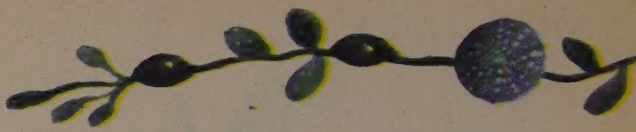

A MESSAGE TO PARENTS & TEACHERS:

In this series of inexpensive books for children, Rand McNally is presenting carefully selected, good literature for the very young child. Books in this series are factual, fanciful, humorous, questioning and adventurous. It is hoped that the series will provide for the masses of children whose parents might be unaware of the availability of good literature at such nominal cost. We firmly believe that the love and appreciation of literature must begin when the child is very young.

One of the joys of childhood is to visit Grandma. If she happens to live close to the seashore, visits are enhanced by the pleasures of walking and exploring the beach.

Children revel in personal collections and the collecting of shells is particularly fascinating to them. It is helpful for each young explorer to be provided with paper sacks, shoe boxes or other suitable containers for their treasures. And it is important to provide space for them on the trip home. Children finger, count, study, sort and classify their collections long afterwards. They can be enjoyed and shared with others.

Understanding parents and grandparents will encourage children's interest in the wonders of sea and shore life.

NATIONAL COLLEGE OF EDUCATION
Evanston, Illinois

Seashells for Katie and Andy

By Solveig Paulson Russell

Illustrated by Marjorie Cooper

RAND McNALLY & COMPANY
Chicago
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KATIE, Andy, and Grandma were walking on the beach looking for shells.

"There's some tiny butterfly wings," Katie cried.

"No, they are coquina shells. But they look like butterfly wings. Tiny

creatures once lived in them. All shells are old homes of little animals that once lived in the sea," said Grandma.

Katie held a smooth shiny shell. "It feels like glass. It has white spots on it. And little rows of teeth on the under side. What is it, Grandma?"

"It is a cowrie shell. There are many kinds of cowries. We will make a hole in this one and you can wear it for a necklace."

Andy dug a big shell from the sand. "Look at this," he cried.

"That is a triton shell. Some people make trumpets from them. If

you hold it to your ear you can hear a low sound."

"It sounds like a far-away ocean," Andy said.

"I've found a bigger shell," Katie cried. "See how large it is!"

"That is a queen conch," said Grandma. "Conches can be made

into trumpets, too. When you get home you can use this shell as a vase for small flowers."

"This shell has stickery points," said Andy. "What is it, Grandma?"

"That is a lace murex. Many murex shells have ruffles and spines. Some look like strange combs."

Grandma picked up a smooth shiny shell. "This is an olive shell," she said. "The little marks on it look like letters. Indians once used olive shells for necklaces."

"I found a shell with two sections. It opens like a book," said Katie. "Oh, oh! I broke the part that held them together!"

"It wasn't very strong. Those are

scallop shells," Grandma explained. "Scallops are good to eat. When live scallops move through water they quickly open and close the two shells to force themselves along."

Next Andy found a pointed shell with a tiny hole in the top.

"It is a limpet, sometimes called a volcano shell. Put your finger inside and feel how smooth it is," Grandma suggested. "Limpets cling to rocks when they are alive."

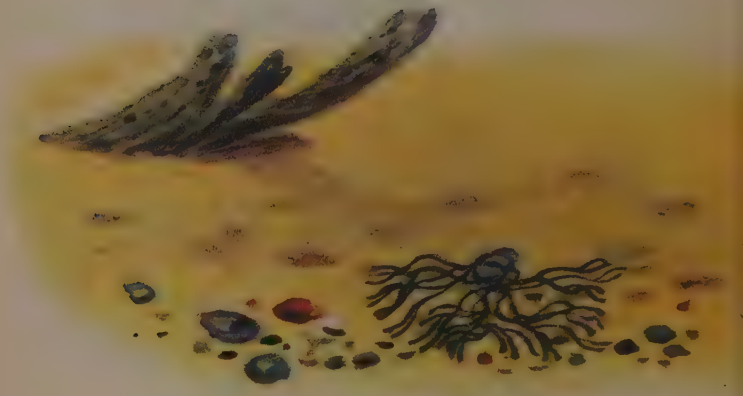
Katie and Andy looked at all their shells. "Can we find shells only on the beach, Grandma?" asked Katie.

"No, there are snails that live in trees. And some snails live in gardens, or in fresh water, too. Often these snail shells are very pretty."

"Shells are fun," Andy said.

"They are often useful, too," said Grandma. "They can be made into jewelry, vases, and other decorations. Sometimes shells are broken up and used in making roadways."

"We wouldn't want our shells to be broken," said Katie. "We're going to keep these, and hunt for more some other day."



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